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News Release

VIRGINIA FUGITIVE FACES MORE CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGES IN KENTUCKY

Admitted he had 200,000 child pornography images stored on his computer

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — A fugitive wanted in Virginia for child pornography was arrested here last week, and now faces additional charges after admitting he had stored more than 200,000 child pornography images on his computer. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) conducted this investigation.

David L. Huber, U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky, announced the arrest and subsequent complaint filed last week against Jared William Spencer Berry, 36, of 1405 Juniper Dr., Louisville, on child pornography charges. Berry was already being detained on a warrant based on a federal indictment for child pornography from Newport News, Va.

Berry was previously indicted by a federal grand jury in the Eastern District of Virginia in December 2001 for transporting and possessing child pornography. He had been a fugitive until ICE agents and U.S. Marshals executed the arrest warrant at Berry's residence Jan. 31.

During the arrest and consensual search, Berry admitted to continually acquiring child pornography. He stated that he had more than 200,000 still images of child pornography and hundreds of child pornography video files stored on the computers located in his residence. Berry also admitted that he acquired and possessed images of children under the age of 18 engaging in sexually explicit activity. He described the images as depicting children with children, children with adults, nude images of children, and children posing in erotic positions. Berry also stated that he last acquired images of child pornography within the past 36 hours, that he is "addicted" to child pornography, and that he spends a considerable amount of time most every day searching for child pornography on the Internet. Berry further admitted that he is sexually interested in children. He specifically stated a sexual interest in boys aged 10 to 14 years old. He stated that he used the child pornography images located on the Internet for sexual stimulation.

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After being advised of his constitutional rights, Berry executed a written waiver of those rights and agreed to talk to the law enforcement officials. Additionally, Berry consenting in writing to a search of his residence and a separate consent to search his computer/electronic equipment. ICE agents seized from his apartment about 14 computers, four laptops, and numerous removable hard drives and other forms of computer storage media.

Berry admitted that he was the only person living in the residence and that he owned all of the seized computer equipment. He also admitted that he had possessed child pornography images in printed and electronic form while he lived in Virginia.

While in Berry's residence, law enforcement officials noticed photographs of young male children. Berry admitted that he had taken the children's photographs while at shopping malls and athletic fields. However, he denied knowing the children shown in the photographs.

An ICE agent and computer forensic specialist assisted with dismantling the computer equipment seized from Berry's apartment. ICE is now conducting a preliminary examination of the seized materials and estimates the storage capacity of the materials reviewed to this point at 4.5 terabytes. ICE has also conducted a preliminary examination of one mobile drive seized from Berry's residence. The examination revealed numerous still and video images stored on the drive depicting boys under 18 years of age engaging in sexually explicit conduct.

If convicted of the charges lodged in this district, Berry faces a mandatory minimum sentence of five years' imprisonment and a potential penalty of 30 years' imprisonment, a \$500,000 fine, and supervised release for a period of any term of years up to and including life. There is no parole in the federal judicial system.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Jo E. Lawless, Western District of Kentucky, is prosecuting the case. The U.S. Marshal Service and the Naval Criminal Investigation Service assisted ICE in the investigation.

A criminal complaint is an accusation only, and that person is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

This arrest is part of Operation Predator, a nationwide ICE initiative to protect children from sexual predators, including those who travel overseas for sex with minors, Internet child pornographers, criminal alien sex offenders, and child sex traffickers. Since Operation Predator was launched in July 2003, ICE agents have arrested more than 6,900 individuals, including 16 in Kentucky.

ICE encourages the public to report suspected child predators and any suspicious activity through its toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. This hotline is staffed around the clock by investigators. Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-5678 or http://www.cybertipline.com.

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